

## New Arrivals to WVHRC: Second Quarter 2023

Carissa D. Phillips started working as an Investigator 2 for the WVHRC on May 8. Carissa earned her BA in Criminal Justice from University of Charleston and has worked for the state for 18 years. Most recently, she was an investigator for the WV Lottery, and previously worked for the WV State Police's Criminal Investigations Bureau. Carissa attends New Vision Baptist Church in Madison, where her father, Audie Murphy, is the pastor. Outside of work, Carissa is the Treasurer of the Patriot Foundation for George Washington High School's football team, and a wife and mother of three who enjoys boating and cruises.



Paige M. Lawler is one of the Legal Interns who arrived on May 15 to work at the WVHRC for the summer. Paige received a BA in Environmental Studies with a minor in Chemistry from Pitt, and is heading into her second year at Pitt Law. She has previously worked as a camp counselor, nanny, beach lifeguard, and swim team coach, and enjoys competitive swimming, reading, spending time outdoors, and hanging out with her cat.



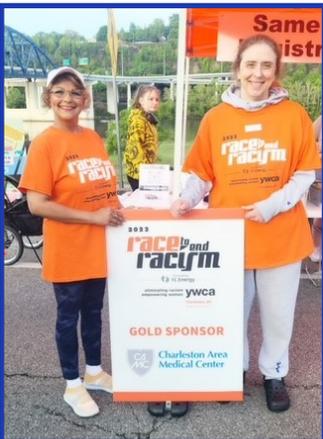
Jacob R. Cross is also a Legal Intern who arrived on May 15. He hails from Jefferson County, West Virginia, and graduated from Shepherd University with a degree in Political Science. Jacob is heading into his second year of law school at West Virginia University and previously worked as a stocker at a major hardware chain. Outside of work and school, Jacob enjoys music, books, historical documentaries, and collecting Legos, especially Star Wars sets.



Garrie L. White is an Investigator 1 in the employment/public accommodations department who started on June 5. Garrie earned her BA in Criminal Justice and her Masters in Criminal Justice Administration from West Virginia State University. She was a Corrections Officer II for the Regional Jail Authority for two years, and most recently worked for seven years as a Probation/Parole Officer for the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Garrie prefers to spend her free time with her daughter and sisters.



## WVHRC Staff Support Racing to End Racism



Pictured are WVHRC employees Hazra Alladin and Krista Scott at the YWCA's Seventh Annual Race to End Racism Saturday, April 29, 2023.

Several hundred people participated in the 5k Run/1 Mile Walk including WVHRC's Administrative Law Judge C. Joan Parker, not pictured.

The race was followed by an inaugural cultural celebration that included food, live music, and family-friendly activities.

## Fair Housing Conference in Flatwoods

WVHRC hosted its annual Fair Housing Conference on April 27 in Flatwoods, WV. The conference was cosponsored by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). WVHRC organizes an event every April to mark the passage of the Fair Housing Act in April of 1968. The annual Fair Housing Conference is well-attended by housing providers and other housing professionals.

Expert speakers at this year's event included Josh Brown of E&A Team, Inc., who gave a presentation about accessibility and accommodations for persons with disabilities. Assistant United States Attorney Jason Bailey explained federal enforcement mechanisms under the Fair Housing Act, and representatives from the Charleston Field Office of HUD Julie Alston, Marisa Gonzalez, and Paul Backo gave a presentation entitled "HUD 101."

William Beltran Martinez, HUD Intake Branch Chief, discussed the rules applying to service and support animals used by many persons with disabilities. Finally, Administrative Law Judge C. Joan Parker gave details about the administrative enforcement proceedings of the WVHRC under the state's Fair Housing Act.



## Public Defender Services Conference



WVHRC set up an outreach table at the 2023 Public Defender Services Indigent Defense Annual Conference in Charleston on June 8 and 9.

Pictured are summer intern Paige Lawler and Administrative Law Judge C. Joan Parker, who answered questions and provided information about the WVHRC's services and mission to more than 200 attorneys who attended. Intern Jacob Cross and General Counsel Cameron McKinney also represented the WVHRC at the conference.

## Administrative Professionals Day

Director Welch, on behalf of the WVHRC, presented support staff with World's Best Administrative Professional certificates for Administrative Professionals Day, April 21, 2023, followed by lunch at Chilis at the Charleston Town Center.



## Celebrating Juneteenth



The WVHRC participated in the annual Juneteenth Celebration held on June 17th 2023, at the State Capitol Complex.

This event was sponsored by the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs (HHOMA). There were several other vendors who participated, as well as performers from throughout the state. It was a successful event for the WV Human Rights Commission's outreach work.

## Kanawha County Transitional Information

The Kanawha County Transitional Fair, a job fair aimed at 11th and 12th graders, was held at the Civic Center on the 11th and 12th of June.

WVHRC's Kayla Craig and Kim Jones presided over an information booth on the first day.



## Employee Appreciation Day



Employee Appreciation Day was held on May 10. Every member of the WVHRC was rewarded for their hard work with a small award, rubber ducky, and a catered lunch from Ridgeview BBQ.

"I am honored to share in this Employee Appreciation Day with the dedicated and professional staff of the West Virginia Human Rights Commission," said Tia Welch, WVHRC Director (pictured bottom right, with Hazra Alladin).



The WV Human Rights Commission provides outreach and education to residents of WV on Fair Housing, Equal Employment and Public Accommodations through annual trainings, conferences, and seminars.

The Commission is available to provide training in-person and virtually by request.